

American Academy of Religion, Western Region
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Sunday, March 15, 2021, 12:45-2:00pm

PRESENT: In total, approximately 25 members of the AAR/WR were present

PRESIDING: Jason Sexton, 2019-2020 President

Minutes compiled by Anna Hennessey, 2020-2021 President

1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS:

- a. Dr. Sexton called the meeting to order, providing the agenda of the meeting: thanking outgoing board members, announcements regarding new business, and elections for open board positions.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Dr. Sexton commended those who organized AAR/WR's 2020 Virtual Conference, in particular noting Vice President and Program Chair Anna Hennessey for her foresight and fast action in putting the conference together, as well as all of the chairs who contributed to the work on the conference. Dr. Sexton notified the membership that the AAR/WR Board of Directors had voted unanimously to give Dr. Hennessey a special award for her work on the conference and ability at bringing the chairs together in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.
- b. Incoming 2020-2021 President Dr. Anna Hennessey stated that no location had been secured yet for AAR/WR's 2021 conference, though she was in touch with possible liaisons at two different institutions.
- c. Incoming 2020-2021 Vice President and Program Chair Dr. Roy Whitaker stated that the theme for AAR/WR's Annual Conference would relate to the topic of Religion, Marginalized Communities, and Social & Economic Justice, and that a full theme description would be posted to AAR/WR's website later in the spring.
- d. Dr. Sexton introduced new candidates for the position of 2020-2023 Regional Coordinator and thanked outgoing Regional Coordinator, Dr. Brian Clearwater, for his service to the region.

3. ELECTION RESULTS

The membership voted unanimously by acclamation for the following uncontested positions:

- a. Diversity Advocate: Sakena Young-Skaggs
- b. Queer Advocate: Anjeanette LeBoeuf

For AAR/WR's Regionally Elected Coordinator (REC), 2017-2020 Regionally Elected Coordinator Brian Clearwater ran the election. The membership voted:

- a. Jonathan Lee (winner)
- b. Jake Nagasawa

- c. Shannon Toribio

4. PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO PAST PRESIDENT ABDUALLAHI GALLAB

- a. Dr. Sexton presented an award from the 2019-2020 AAR/WR Board of Directors to Dr. Abdullahi Gallab for his service to the AAR/WR Board and Executive Committee (EC) over the course of his term on AAR/WR's presidential line.

5. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting adjourned at 2:00pm

6. NEXT MEETING

- a. The date for the next meeting is scheduled for March 2021.